

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The courteous and helpful assistance extended to the undersigned by Examiner Lee during the personal interview held on October 31, 2003 is acknowledged with appreciation.

A sample of an integrated circuit card in accordance with the present invention was given to the Examiner during the interview. The sample showed the formation of perforations in the conductive track in which portions of the insulating layer are received in order to improve the bond between the conductive track and the insulating layer. In this fashion, the conductive track and the insulating layer are more securely held together to resist stresses which might otherwise tend to separate them.

In contrast, Gloton shows metal strip 10 slotted with a repetitive pattern of slots 102 which define separate contacts 3. As clearly shown in Fig. 6, no portion of dielectric strip (i.e., insulator) 11 is received within slots 102. Gloton is totally devoid of any disclosure, teaching or even hint of having any portion of insulator 11 protrude into slots 102, let alone a teaching that doing so is advantageous for the purpose of improving the bond between layers 10 and 11.

The undersigned and the Examiner discussed a proposed modification to claim 6 which would even more clearly distinguish that claimed invention over Gloton. The revised version of claim 6, as presented hereinabove, reflects those discussions with the Examiner.

During the discussion with the Examiner it was noted that allowed claim 10 recites that the "conductive track comprises slots formed as strips, and has a plurality of perforations in which portions of the insulating layer are received." However, as should be clear from page 4, lines 5-14 of the present specification the slots are one embodiment of the perforations. Thus, the claimed invention ought not to be limited to the use of strips and perforations in the conductive track since a

slot is really one embodiment of the perforations. Page 6, lines 3-13 of the specification disclose use of the perforations in the conductive track.

In view of this realization regarding claim 10, it has been modified hereinabove to retain the limitation that the conductive track includes slots formed as strips but the mention of "a plurality of perforations" has been deleted. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 remains allowable over the cited references.

Claim 9 has also been revised in order for it to be even more clear about the fact that the perforations can be in various forms, and that a circular hole is one embodiment thereof.

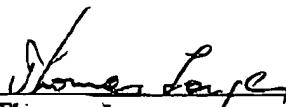
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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